



BEST/PTO NEWSLETTER

Bedford Elementary Schools Together/Parent Teacher Organization
Providing a Forum for Communication, Enrichment and Support
June 2011

Letter from the President:

Spring sports are winding down....a clear indication that the school year is coming to an end. When I look back throughout the year I am amazed at the wonderful events and programs the students have enjoyed. Field day, challenge day and Celebrating Differences to mention only a few. I want to thank the BEST community of parents and volunteers that have worked hard to make this a great year for the students at the Davis and Lane Schools.

The generous donations from Davis and Lane families have allowed BEST to fund some wonderful enrichment programs. In addition, **BEST is funding two SMART Boards for Davis School.** We are thrilled to be providing the students with technology in the classroom.

It is never too early to start thinking about next year. There are volunteer opportunities for BEST. It is a great way to share in your child's experience at the Davis and Lane Schools.

Lyn Kapilian
President/BEST

In the Schools

ART ROOM HELP REQUESTED

YEAR END BAGGING OF ARTWORK: The students at Davis will be bringing their art projects home at the end of the school year. We need your help putting these art projects into bags so that the children can carry them home. Sign up for a time slot at <http://www1.mysignup.com/cgi-bin/view.cgi?datafile=davisartroom>.

DAVIS TILES, 2nd GRADERS: The 2nd grade tile project is underway. Please consider volunteering in your child's classroom to help facilitate the success of this project. Please sign up online: <http://www1.mysignup.com/cgi-bin/view.cgi?datafile=davistileproject>
In addition to the class time help, the tiles will need to be outlined – this can be done at your convenience. Please go directly to Jill Frazier, the art teacher for directions. This final art project is their opportunity to leave their personal touch at Davis.

RECYCLED CYLINDRICAL SHAPES: Davis Art Teacher is requesting large cylindrical recycled containers to complete a project. Some examples of the materials are as follows: 2 liter soda bottles, large or small oatmeal container, breadcrumb canisters, coffee cans, wide metal cans, quart size yogurt containers, 32 oz ricotta containers, or anything of similar shape. Containers can be left outside the Davis School Office. Your help with this project is greatly appreciated.

Davis School WORLD LANGUAGE PROGRAM is seeking a Co-Coordinator for the 2011-2012 school year. In 1998, this program started by a few BEST parents who wanted to provide Davis School children an opportunity of exposure to another language and maybe even some of its culture. It is an extremely popular before school program which we hope all interested students will have the opportunity to participate during either their 1st or 2nd grade year at Davis. To ensure the continued success of the World Language Program, BEST is looking for a Co-Coordinator to work with the current coordinator for the Fall 2011 session. Please contact Paula Driscoll @ driscoll.paula@verizon.net or 781.275.1028 if you are interested or would like more information.

Thanks for a FUN Baseball day at Lane! A big thank you to all the parent volunteers, the kitchen staff at Lane, the BHS softball team and the Bedford police department (for lending us their speed control radar)! Children enjoyed fresh popped popcorn donated by BEST PTO and were able to hit some pitched balls and have their pitching speed clocked! A fun day for all!!! Thank you!!! Kristin Ferrari VP Lane

Note from Kristin Ferrari VP Lane Since this is my last month on the board of the BEST PTO I wanted to take a minute to thank everyone for all your support the last few years, including parents staff and faculty! It has been my pleasure to work hard and raise money for our children and schools. We as a community are very lucky to live in such a great town like Bedford! Thank you all it has been a blast!! See you in the halls !

Teacher Appreciation Week, May 2-6, was a resounding success. Thank you parents and committee members for all your time and effort, for the food and other items donated to both schools. Thanks to the Davis parents who helped with bus duty each day during that week. The teachers were very grateful. Below is a special thank you from one of the teachers we wanted to share which beautifully expresses how much this week means to the teachers:

Dear BEST friends,

What a glorious week this has been. It was so warm and welcoming to arrive at school and see the "We Love Our Teachers" banner. Then, checking in my mailbox, I found the Whole Foods bag filled with reading material and a gift certificate from Flatbread Pizza. Lunch from Whole Foods was filling and fabulous. And that was just on Tuesday! Every day has been full of wonderful surprises.

I offer the highest praise and thanks to the many volunteers who assisted with bus duty. It gave us additional planning time and was a wonderful gift, especially for those of us who were heading to meetings at 3:30.

I have probably consumed more food this week than the past two weeks combined. From the yummy breakfast treats, to the scrumptious lunches and desserts, everything has been delicious. Your kindness and support are truly heartwarming. Thank you so much for appreciating our work as teachers and for your partnership in helping our Bedford children to grow and thrive in a warm, welcoming community. It is an honor and a pleasure to be a part of this extraordinary school system.

Joyce Ryder, Davis School

Thanks again for your help! Chris Anderson, Laurie Sukoff & Lisa Hafer, TAW Co-chairs

Davis BEST Hospitality Committee A BIG thank you goes out to all of the members of the 2010-2011 Davis Hospitality Committee! Four times this year you combined your collective talents and provided the teachers and staff with amazing luncheons and bus duty coverage. Everyone at the Davis School appreciates your efforts!

Our gratitude goes out to: Kelly Bauer, Monica Bou, Jennifer Buckley, Julie Capone, Patty Carluccio, Jihyung Choi, Andrea Couvee, Dan Crews, Breena Daniell, Karen Daniels, Tricia Daly, Susan DiGangi,

Beth Doyle, Paula Driscoll, Natalie Dussault, Michelle Fitzgerald, Noreen Garrity, Jennie Goldfarb, Jennifer Goldman, Melissa Gorbatov, Tara Goss, Deb Griffin, Janel Halupowski, Maryalyce Henning, Lisa Hovnanian, Lyn Kapilian, Rebecca Karen, Paula Kazangian, Gretchen Kind, Debbie Kostas, Jennifer Kreiter, Susan Lincoln, Kim Marino, Bonnie McCulloch, Sandy Morvillo, Hima Naidu, Maria Ou, Manisha Patel, Jane Patterson, Christine Portlock, Christine Speciale, Robin Steele, Jenny Stewart, Jayme Szymczak, Jessica Tonini, Beth Venuti, Lisa Warhover, Jennifer Wayne-Bartlett, Elaine Wilson, Joy Wilson, Jennifer Wittman-Heller, and Melissa Zorn.

If you would like to join the Davis Hospitality Committee for the 2011-2012 school year, please email Dawn Kociubes at dawn.kociubes@gmail.com or Audrey Gould at audreygould@yahoo.com.

Support Your Schools

Super Easy and FREE ways to earn BEST money that goes directly to our elementary schools.

Attention Target Card holders:

Target Credit Card gives back 1% to a local school. Just sign up!

1. Go to Target.com
2. Click on the words Red Card saves you %5 everyday
3. Scroll down a little and there is a box that says "Take Charge of Education" click on that and follow the directions.

You can put Bedford schools like Davis or Lane as recipients!!

Box Tops!

They can be found on several food products, just look for them (they are a little sneaky) they can be found often on the bottom or top, sometimes items have DOUBLE tops! Cut them out and send them to BEST via Kidmail. We earn 10 cents per top!

June Green Tip

Green Tips for Summer

As the school year winds down we leave you with these parting green tips for a healthy, green and great summer:

- Don't apply pesticides to your lawn. Your children and pets are rolling around in them.
- Support local farmers markets.
- Apply safe sunscreens without toxic chemicals.
- Use Freecycle or Craigslist to give away stuff you don't need.

Community Corner:

Bedford High Integrated Preschool, is expanding! We are adding an additional three-day program, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30 – 12. The classroom is located at Bedford High School, next to the current preschool classroom. We are now accepting applications for the 2011-12 school year. Bedford High Integrated Preschool programs, provide service for children ages 3-5. We provide

special education services and regular education services in an inclusive setting where the role of the adults is to support and facilitate each child's learning. Our classrooms are taught by a highly qualified team of teachers including: a Special Education Teacher, Educational Assistant, Speech Pathologist, Occupational Therapist and Physical Therapist for up to 15 children. In addition to our MA licensed teachers, high school students assist in the class as part of their course of studies. For more information or to request an application for your child please contact:

Jayne Szymczak, Bedford High Integrated Preschool Teacher/Coordinator
781-275-1700 ext. 4110 or jayne_szymczak@bedford.k12.ma.us

Bedford Farmers' Market, Mondays are market days in Bedford, June 13 - October 17. Lunch available from Great Harvest Bread Company 12:30 - 2:30pm; market open 1pm - 5:30pm. Wide variety of fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruits, grass-fed meats, fish, eggs, cheese, pasta, baked goods, condiments, jams, honey, spreads, roasted nuts, teas, wine, chowder, grape leaves, hummus. Crafts, entertainment, children's activities and special events. For a complete list of vendors and updates, visit www.bedfordmarket.org or find us on Facebook.

Bedford Farmers' Market is located at Depot Park at the intersection of South Rd., Loomis St., and Railroad Ave. Depot Park is the terminus of the Minuteman Bike Path and is accessible by the #62 MBTA bus (Loomis St. at South Rd. stop). If driving, follow signs throughout Bedford. Plenty of parking.

BHS Marching Band Fundraiser – Flatbread Pizza, Tuesday, June 21, 5pm-9pm

Middlesex Community College's Bike Challenge 2011, Middlesex Community College's Bike Challenge 2011, a 10-mile or 40-mile benefit bicycle ride, will be held at 9 a.m. (40-mile ride) and 10 a.m. (10-mile ride) Sunday, June 5, on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. Same-day registration starts at 8 a.m., in the Bedford Campus Center.

Open to cyclists of all ages, the 10-mile course will traverse a scenic route on and around MCC's 200-acre Bedford campus. The 40-mile course will incorporate parts of Bedford, Billerica, Carlisle and Concord.

The Bike Challenge 2011 registration fee is \$50 for all riders, ages 18 and up (fee includes T-shirt, water bottle, snack and hot lunch). Riders age 17 and under are free. There is no fundraising requirement for this event, but cyclists who raise \$150 or more in pledges receive a FREE Bike Challenge 2011 jersey. (Jerseys will also be available for purchase.) To register for MCC Bike Challenge 2011, or for more info visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/events/bike_challenge

PMC Bedford Kids Ride: There is just a little more than a week left until the 7th annual PMC Bedford Kids Ride. Registration can be done online at: <http://kids.pmc.org/bedford/> for annual PMC Bedford Kids Ride to be held this year on June 11th from 9am-1pm at John Glenn Middle School. We are once again looking forward to an incredible ride and really need your support! The PMC is continuing its Heavy Hitter program for kids who raise at least \$250. PMC Kids Heavy Hitters will be recognized with a special PMC Kids Heavy Hitter baseball hat and other items to distinguish their achievement. In addition, the PMC Bedford Ride will be having a special Heavy Hitters' raffle where we will be raffling off an iPad! You will receive one raffle ticket for every \$250 raised. We are encouraging all riders to take part in this challenge and become a Heavy Hitter.

Early check in for the ride will be held Friday, June 10, from 5:30-8:30pm at the John Glenn Middle School (Cafeteria), You can stop by any time to pick up your t-shirt, water bottle and bike tag. Make sure to bring your pledge form and donations. And special this night only, you can get 2 for 1 raffle tickets. Enjoy a slice of pizza and a drink courtesy of Papa Gino's.

Bedford Youth & Family Services Spring newsletter is available on line at <http://www.bedfordma.gov/youth> or in hard copy at our Town Center offices.

Bedford Youth and Family Services Job Match

Students from middle and high school interested in working at jobs such as child care, yard work, snow shoveling or odd jobs may find a great job match with Bedford Youth and Family Services (BYFS).

Young people, who for a variety of reasons, including an after school commitment to sports, music or other school activity may not be able to work in the stores or private industry.

Bedford youth may register with Job Match. While some may be inexperienced, many are not. The younger youth want a little extra spending money and this opportunity gives them practice for the world of work to come. The older youth may enjoy the flexibility.

BYFS matches the student with an available job. We give residents who call us the names of a few students who are a good match considering the resident's expectations and the youth's skills and time. The resident and the youth negotiate the rate of pay, depending on the job. Odd jobs have included helping out at home parties, light office work, and light house work.

Young people can download an application at www.bedfordma.gov/youth.html under Job Match or pick one up at our Town Center office.

Residents with a job can call our office at 781/275-7727 to be matched to students or email frans@bedfordma.gov with questions.

Enrollment Open for MCC Summer Camps

Middlesex Community College is now accepting enrollments for its 2011 Summer Camps. Designed to actively engage students ages 8 to 15 in an exciting learning environment, MCC's Summer Camps run July 11 through Aug. 19. More than 30 one- and two- and three-week camps will be offered, exploring the fields of design, science, technology, fashion and the arts. Most camps run 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more MCC Summer Camps information, visit our website: <http://www.middlesex.mass.edu/sucamps2011/> or call 978-656-3215. To register directly for MCC's Summer Camps, call 1-800-818-3434.

BedfordKids.com

Visit www.bedfordkids.com, a web site for families with children ages 0-18 in Bedford, Massachusetts, and surrounding communities. You'll find a local calendar of events; things to do (activities, classes, sports, clubs, camps, museums, zoos, farms, playgrounds, story times, family-friendly restaurants); preschool & childcare options; information on Bedford Public Schools (K-12); local and statewide parent resources (support groups; health + wellness; job search); a Welcome to Bedford guide; Bedford + Neighbors community links; and an active site-related Yahoo email discussion group.

Bedford SEPAC Welcomes New Board Members for 2011-2012 On Thursday May 19, Bedford SEPAC held its annual executive board elections and end-of-year social. Results are as follows:

Co-Chairs – Dana Fine and Roy Watson; Treasurer – Karine Marino;

Secretary- Jackie Heller; Publicity Coordinator- Paul D'Izio

JGMS Liaison- Marge Heckman; BHS Liaison- Claudia Fox-Tree

Out of District Liaison- Irene Gravinga;

Lane School Liaison- Vacant; Davis School Liaison- Vacant

Volunteers are still needed for Lane School Liaison and Davis School Liaison. If you are interested in either of these positions or in serving on our Bedford Day or Hospitality Committee, please contact Dana Fine at danafine@verizon.net.

We gratefully acknowledge all those who supported SEPAC this past year through active engagement or financial contributions. Our sincere thanks to outgoing members Berni Vatcher, Gail Valbona and Marilyn Francis for their outstanding service and commitment over the past three years. Thanks also to our continuing and newly-elected members for stepping forward to volunteer their time and energies to help keep SEPAC a vital force in advocating for the needs of children with learning challenges. Looking forward to a successful and productive 2011-2012 school year!

Bedford SEPAC Parent Coffee at Whole Foods Café, Fri. June 17 Parents and guardians of children with learning challenges or special needs on IEPs or 504 plans are invited to attend a coffee on Friday June 17, sponsored by Bedford Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). Parent coffees are a great way to connect with others who may be facing some of the same challenges that you are. Drop in any time between 8:30 and 10:30 AM and share concerns, information and support in a relaxed, informal setting. If you have concerns about a child who is struggling in school but not on an IEP or 504 plan, come and talk to us. SEPAC generally holds parent coffees the fourth Friday of every month at Whole Foods Café, 170 Great Road, Bedford. Questions? Contact Irene Gravina at igravina@yahoo.com or (781) 275-6535.

2010-2011 BEST/PTO Officers

President: Lyn Kapilian
lynkapilian@comcast.net
Vice President (Davis): Peter Ricci
bedfordriccis@verizon.net
Vice President (Lane): Kristin Ferrari
kferrari@comcast.net
Secretary: Caroline Fedele
Caroline.fedele@comcast.net
Treasurer: Diane Bernstein
dgm.bernstein@verizon.net

BEST Committee Chair Open Positions

- Transportation Safety Committee